

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3825

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IN, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-INDIA RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO AN AFP REPORT PUBLISHED HERE, JANATA MP SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY, NOW VISITING PEKING, HAS SAID THAT INDIA AND CHINA ARE READY TO RESOLVE THE BORDER ISSUE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CHINA OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE. SWAMY MET WITH NEWSMEN SEPTEMBER 5 AFTER A TWO-HOUR TALK WITH FORMER CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER CHI PENG-FEI. ACCORDING TO SWAMY, CHI TOLD HIM THAT CHINA WAS PREPARED TO BEGIN PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS "SIMULTANEOUSLY" WITH NORMALIZATION OF SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS AND "EVEN DURING THE

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VISIT" NEXT MONTH OF VAJPAYEE. SWAMY REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CHINA WAS WILLING TO SET ASIDE DIFFERENCES AND TO CONCENTRATE ON MAJOR AREAS OF AGREEMENT. REFERRING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS, SWAMY TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE BORDER COULD BE DRAWN SO THAT "THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANY LOSS FOR EITHER SIDE" AND THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE BORDER LINE WOULD BE A "MAINTAINABLE" ONE. ACCORDING TO AFP, CHINA WAS PREPARING TO AUTHOR-

IZE INDIAN PILGRIMS TO VISIT MOUNT KAILISH IN TIBET, THE SOURCE OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER.

2. SWAMY, A CONTROVERSIAL MP ALIGNED WITH THE JANA SANGH WING OF THE JANATA AND A SPECIALIST IN THE CHINESE ECONOMY, HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK BY THE OPPOSITION FOR HIS OFT-POSTPONED VISIT TO CHINA. TO COUNTER CHARGES THAT SWAMY WAS THE ADVANCE MAN FOR VAJPAYEE'S TRIP, THE GOVERNMENT HAS STRESSED THAT SWAMY WAS TRAVELLING IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY AND NOT AS A JANATA MP OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THE AFP PRESS REPORT CONTAINED NO SURPRISES AS TO RESPECTIVE ATTITUDES ON THE BORDER, IT PREDICTABLY PROMPTED ANOTHER ATTACK ON SWAMY BY TWO CONGRESS MP'S. IN A STATEMENT RELEASED TO THE PRESS, FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BININ-PAL DAS AND DEVINDRA NATH DWIVEDI QUESTIONED THE PROPIETY OF SWAMY "GOING TO THE EXTENT OF DEFINING THE OUTLINE OR PRINCIPLE OF INDIA'S BORDER SETTLEMENT WITH CHINA." THEY WARNED THE GOVERNMENT TO BEWARE OF "FORCES AND ELEMENTS FUNCTIONING AS THE SPOKESMAN OF EXTERNAL AGENCIES" (AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO SWAMY AS A CHINESE AND/OR AMERICAN AGENT). DAS AND DWIVEDI SAID THAT EVERYONE AGREED THAT THE BORDER ISSUE SHOULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY WITHOUT COMPROMISING INDIAN SOVREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY BUT THAT THERE WERE OTHER ISSUES THAT COULD NOT BE NEGOTIATED. THEY THEN ATTACKED THE PRC FOR ITS STAND ON KASHMIR AND SIKKIM; ITS ARMING OF INDIAN TRIBAL INSURGENTS; ITS SUPPORT FOR SANFWZ; THE ILLE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GALLY-BUILT KARAKORUM HIGHWAY; AND ITS "ANTI-INDIA ACVITITIES IN NEPAL AND BANGLADESH." THESE ARE ALL ISSUES WHICH THE OPPOSITION USED REPEATEDLY IN THE JUST ENDED SESSION OF PARLIAMENT TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT'S CHINA POLICY, AND ARE AMONG THE REASONS THAT THE GOI IS DEALING SO GINGERLY WITH THE PEKING VISIT AND IN FORMULATING ITS POSITION ON THE BORDER ISSUE.

GOHEEN

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